

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to clarify the manner in which Applicant's invention distinguishes patentably from the prior art, including the references relied upon in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 1 now recites a disk-shaped object consisting of a single layer of synthetic thermoplastic adhesive material having adhesive material contact surfaces of the single layer on opposite sides of the adhesive material of the single layer that are rough, with averaged roughness in a specified range.

Claim 7 recites that the rough adhesive material contact surfaces occupy the entirety of the opposite sides of the single layer.

Claim 8 recites a disk-shaped object consisting of a single layer of synthetic thermoplastic adhesive material, wherein adhesive material contact surfaces of the single layer that entirely cover opposite sides of the single layer are rough, and wherein their averaged roughness and arithmetic mean rugosity lie in specified ranges.

The principal reference, Itada et al., discloses a multi-layer adhesive wrapping film. There is no teaching nor suggestion of a disk-shaped object consisting of a single layer having the characteristics recited in Applicant's claims.

The essential thrust of the Itada et al., disclosure is a multi-layered structure in which a substrate layer (B) has a tackifier layer (A) on at least one side surface of the substrate layer. This disclosure has no bearing upon Applicant's claimed invention, as recited in Claims 1, 7 and 8, and in the other claims dependent on Claims 1 and 8.

Applicant's invention is a disk-shaped object consisting of a single layer of synthetic thermoplastic adhesive material in which the adhesive material contact surfaces of the single layer (both of them) are rough. The multi-layer adhesive wrapping film of Itada et al. is inappropriate for Applicant's invention. No one of ordinary skill in the art would have any reason for changing the shape and form of such multi-layer wrapping film to produce Applicant's disk-shaped object consisting of a single layer of synthetic thermoplastic adhesive material with contact surfaces of the single layer on opposite sides of the adhesive material of the

single layer that are rough, as recited in Applicant's claims. Applicant's invention does not involve a mere change in a shape or size of the multi-layer adhesive wrapping film of Itada et al.

The fact that there may be disk-shaped adhesive in an orthodontic appliance (Jacobs et al.), a thermo neckwrap (Burkett et al.) or accupressure patch (Chang) is not a reasonable basis for any modification of the multi-layer adhesive wrapping film of Itada et al. in any manner that would produce Applicant's claimed invention.

With regard to dependent Claims 9-11, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) fails to address the specific features recited in these claims. More particularly, Claim 9 recites that the object is an annulus with a central hole. Claim 10 recites that the opposite sides of the object abut opposed surfaces, respectively, of two parts. Claim 11 recites that one of the parts is a sheet and the other part is a fastening element with a shank extending through the opening and a flange opposed to the sheet, with the disk-shaped object being intermediate the flange and the sheet. See, in particular, Figs. 1 and 3 of Applicant's drawings.

Nothing of this sort is even remotely suggested by Itada et al. in view of Mascarenhas et al., relied upon in the rejection of Claims 9-11.

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed. Non-elected Claims 5-6 can be cancelled by the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (A-10035) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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